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NATO Pushes for Faster Defense Production Amid Growing Security Pressures

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NATO has announced a renewed push to accelerate defense production and increase long-term military spending, as allies respond to mounting global security challenges and lessons drawn from the war in Ukraine. The plans, discussed at the recent summit in The Hague, include both structural reforms and more ambitious funding targets aimed at strengthening the alliance's overall readiness.

At the heart of the initiative is a coordinated effort to simplify defence procurement and encourage faster delivery of military equipment. Defence ministers have agreed on new capability targets and are working to streamline legal and administrative processes that have previously slowed down production. In Germany, for example, proposed legislation would allow quicker contracting and provide upfront payments to suppliers to remove some of the long-standing bottlenecks in procurement.

In a significant shift, NATO allies also backed a new spending target of five percent of GDP on defence by 2035. This target includes a 3.5% share dedicated to core military capabilities and an additional 1.5% for broader security-related investments such as infrastructure, cyber resilience, and supply chain improvements. While the two percent benchmark will remain the minimum expectation, the higher goal reflects growing awareness that modern threats demand sustained investment across multiple fronts.

Alongside policy changes, NATO is also emphasizing cooperation with industry. At a defence industry forum held during the summit, businesses from across Europe and North America pledged to boost production capacity and reduce lead times for critical defence systems. The alliance's new adoption strategy includes plans to bring new military technologies into use within two years, supported by innovation programmes like DIANA and NATO's defence tech accelerators.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte described the combined efforts as a necessary step forward, not only in terms of defense spending, but in how the alliance adapts and delivers military capability. The focus on air defense systems, armored vehicles, and digital infrastructure highlights

NATO's desire to stay ahead of evolving threats. While implementation will require sustained coordination, the message from allies is clear: improving defense readiness is no longer just a goal, it's an urgent priority.